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16 October 1974

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
THROUGH : Deputy Director for Science and Technology
SUBJECT : Comments on NRO's National Imaging Plan for Satellites

1. I offer the following comments on NRO's 11 October 1974 memorandum for Chairman, USIB concerning a National Imaging Plan for Satellites, which Chairman, COMIREX forwarded to me late today.

2. I agree that an annual statement of projected requirements would be an important component of an imaging plan for satellites. Such an annual statement of requirements should be constructed by those intelligence community components who are and will be dependent on intelligence inputs from imaging satellites for national intelligence analysis and production, and by those defense and other U.S. government components who will be dependent on such inputs for operational purposes. In other words, I am suggesting that parallel statements of requirements--addressing national intelligence for policy and program purposes, and intelligence needed for military, economic, etc. operations--would be useful.

3. I also suggest that single sets of requirements (for either of the above categories) are not helpful to our purposes in constructing an "NIP." Statements of projected requirements should include alternative requirements--alternative to each other as well as alternatives to continuing present requirements--to reflect honestly future uncertainties as well as future choices we might make.

4. I disagree with one aspect of the NRO's structuring of the approach. In the listing of major components, "Requirements and Exploitation" appears as one component. In fact, some exploitation considerations are relevant to requirements and other exploitation considerations are pertinent to program options. It is lack of recognition of the latter aspect that I think needs remedy. Admitting that, in terms of dollars, exploitation is the short and stubby tail which is wagged by the collection dog, exploitation resource investments need to be understood and managed. They may be small relative to collection investments but they can be large relative to other categories of intelligence resource investments. For such understanding, I

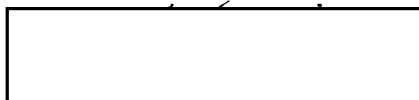
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suggest that an "NIP" needs to give an account of present exploitation resources--at all levels--engaged with and by satellite collection as well as projections of future exploitation resource investments relative to requirements options and collection program options.



JOHN J. HICKS

Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

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